

FROM THE DESK OF THE MAYOR

With the Holiday Season approaching, the City Staff and I wish the best to all of our residents in having a safe and enjoyable season. I would also like to thank all of our city volunteers who participate on our Planning, Library, Civil Service and Parks & Recreation boards, it is volunteers like these who make possible the civic participation and activities in our community. Thank you all.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Holiday-Winter Safety Tips:

The Brier Police Department wishes you a safe, happy and peaceful holiday season.

- Please keep pets warm and safe in the cold weather.
- Make sure your vehicle is in good condition for winter driving.
- The holiday season is a great time to get to know your neighbors. Neighbors watching out for neighbors helps keep an eye out for suspicious activity and make communities safer.
- Lock your vehicle and hide valuables, preferably in the trunk or locked compartment. Stay alert to your surroundings and take a moment to glance around for possible suspicious persons, vehicles, and/or situations.
- When in crowded places, be alert for potential thieves. Don't overload yourself with packages. Be wary of strangers approaching you for any reason. The holiday season is notorious for "con-artists" who may

attempt to distract you with the intention of taking your money or belongings. As an added precaution, make sure you have a record of all your credit card numbers in a secure place at home.

- Recognize that there is safety in numbers and arrange to shop with friends and relatives instead of going out alone. Make sure everyone remains vigilant and looks out for each other.
- Be extra cautious about locking windows, sliders, and doors when leaving for any length of time. We suggest keeping all entrance points into your house secured while you're at home as well. Never keep gifts or valuable objects in plain view from any window. If a person knocks at your door and you don't recognize them, don't feel obligated to open your door. Teach your children that by no means will they open the door to anyone prior to your knowledge and authorization.

**SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM
PERIODIC REVIEW**

All cities and counties in Washington state are required to "review, and revise if necessary" their Shoreline Master Programs (SMPs) adopted under the Shoreline Management Act (see RCW 90.58.080(4)). Brier is in the process of conducting its review. The review process is intended to bring the SMP into compliance with requirements of the act or state rules that have been added or changed since the last SMP amendment.

This ensure the SMP remains consistent with amended comprehensive plans and regulations, and incorporate amendments deemed necessary to reflect changed circumstances, new information, or improved data.

The City plans to hold public hearings on the findings of its review and, if necessary, proposed changes to the SMP in February 2019. A formal comment period will occur prior to the hearing. Notice of the comment period and public hearing will be posted at public posting locations, on the website, and in the Everett Herald.

Title 20 of Brier Municipal Code contains the current SMP. This is available for viewing at

www.codepublishing.com/WA/Brier/.

You are welcome to submit comments at any time prior to the close of the formal comment period by contacting the City Planner at cityplanner@ci.brier.wa.us or (425) 775-5440.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works is reminding citizens that they can make a difference when it comes to flooding. Homeowners who have open ditches in front of your property, need to check to see that nothing is hung up in the culverts under driveways that would cause the ditch to overflow. A rake and/or shovel can clear the tops of catch basins very quickly, and prevent a minor problem from becoming a larger issue.

If we have a snow event, please be prepared! Please consider your safety and the safety of others if you need to drive in the snow. Public Works will make every reasonable effort to keep the streets open and passable. Our main priority will be for emergency vehicles. We apologize ahead of time if we push

snow into your driveway even after you already cleared it.

Storm events of any kind can be a real burden on the elderly if power is lost, or we have heavy rains or other problems, please check on your neighbors. As always, you may contact Public Works at 425-775-5440 or at bpworks@ci.brier.wa.us. After hours, call 911.

WINTER WEATHER:

What to Expect and How to Help:

The City is making every effort to prepare for storms, and as citizens, you can too. Here are a few examples of what you can do to help:

- Remove debris such as leaves and packed snow from storm drains.
- Remove vehicles from the streets for snow plows to get by.
- Cover and wrap hose bibs in the front and back of your house to prevent pipes freezing.
- Property owners remember: it is your responsibility to clear driveways and sidewalks in front of your property. Many of our children still walk to school or bus stops in bad weather. You can help keep them safe by clearing a path for them.
- Be safe and drive carefully! Use extreme caution while driving in inclement weather of any kind. Allow plenty of time to get to your destination and always yield to service vehicles such as plows, sanders, and buses.

SEWER/STORMWATER RATES FOR 2019 & LATE FEES

King County Metro has notified us they are increasing fees for sewage treatment by approximately 2.5% in 2019. This fee will be passed onto the homeowners in order to pay the increased treatment charges per Brier Municipal Code 13.08.010.

The City's Storm Water Plan includes a .50 cent per month increase supporting

state and federal mandates to meet clean water controls imposed for our city storm water systems.

Sewer and/or Stormwater bills are sent out bi-monthly and are due upon receipt. However we have a built in grace period, we charge a late fee if payment does not arrive prior to the penalty after date listed on the bill which is approximately 45 days after the bills are mailed. Payments are considered late if they do not arrive by 4:30PM on the last "business" day of each odd month. A late payment fee of 10% of the unpaid balance will be applied to the account and is non-revocable. Failure to receive a bill does not exempt the customer from late payment penalties. The late payment charge is applicable to all customers. If you have questions about late fees please call City Hall at 425-775-5440.

WILDLIFE HABITAT CORNER

Escaped Ivy

English Ivy is escaping gardens at rates not seen before. Have you found ivy that has jumped the fence, gone rogue or is otherwise out of bounds? While we weren't watching, ivy has escaped cultivation and taken up residence in natural areas, school green belts and city parks. Ivy smothers native vegetation in woodlands, crowding out native plants and depriving birds of their natural food plants and nest sites. Just as harmful, it climbs trees and eventually topples them. Ivy gives rats a perfect home where they hide undetected. For a fact sheet on ivy, stop by the *entrance* of City Hall or visit this website: <http://kuow.org/post/rip-ivy-out-your-yard-right-now-seriously>. In the meantime avoid planting ivy. For

those who already have it, please remove the berries *before* they spread.

Special Thanks to Julie O'Donald, Jan Faulds and all of the volunteers for coordinating and installing "Drains to Stream" Markers at some of our catch basins. Our goal is to provide a reminder to all of us that everything that flows to the drains ultimately end up in our natural waterways. Please work to protect our environment.



PUGET SOUND STARTS HERE

Through everyday activities, we are releasing harmful and toxic chemicals into stormwater runoff that eventually enters Puget Sound.

Vehicle Operations - Check for leaks.

Fertilizers & Herbicides - Pull and smother weeds instead of spraying. Use native plants.

Car Washing - Use commercial car washes. Wash your car on your lawn.

Pet Waste - What is left on the lawn will be washed into Puget Sound.

Household Products/Chemicals - Choose least-toxic household cleaners and use more elbow grease.

Septic Systems - Maintain your septic system. (toilet paper only) Fix failing septic systems.

REPORTING SPILLS

Department of Ecology spill hotlines

- DOE Spill Line: (360) 407-6300
- Oil Spills: 1-800-OILS-911
- City of Brier: (425) 775-5440 During Normal Business Hours 8AM -5PM M-F
- Dial 911 - After Hours and on Weekends and Holidays

CONCERN FOR NEIGHBORS

FOOD BANK

There is a collection barrel located in our City Hall lobby. Please help support our neighbors in need by dropping off non-perishable items. We will keep the barrel year round to help support our neighbors in need.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Upcoming events,

Mark Your Calendars

Tree Lighting – Saturday, December 1st.
Santa arrives at 6:00 pm - Brier Park.

Traditional Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 20th - 10:00 am start - ages 3 to 10 - Brier Park.

HOLLY HOUSE DONATION BOX

We have a new box in our lobby that helps families in need during the holidays. Please consider donating new pajamas, socks and underwear for those less fortunate. The need is especially high for teens. For more information visit their website at www.hollyhouseforkids.org.